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DE RUEHSO #0465 2151405
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9469
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 0606
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 9217

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000465

SIPDIS

STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

DEPT PASS USTR

USDOC 4322/MAC/OLAC/JAFEE
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [XM](#) [XR](#) [XF](#) [BR](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: MEDIA REACTION - COLOMBIA, FARC, SCO PAULO

August 3, 2009

Title- More balance

Editorial in liberal Folha de S.Paulo (8-3) states: "...Colombia's relation with its 'Bolivarian' neighbors Venezuela and Ecuador is once more going through a delicate moment. The reason for the disagreement is the expansion of the U.S. military acting in Colombian territory.....Brazil is right in expressing apprehension over what looks like a strategy by the superpower of increasing its military presence in the region. It is not good for the Hemisphere that imbalances and propitious conditions for a military race are created.It is worth noting that the Venezuelan President closed military deals with Russia and offered installations for that country's [military] forces. The Brazilian government said nothing about it. Brazil is in a position to play a relevant role in the regional and international scenario. But, without equilibrium, the risk is that it loses the confidence and the respect needed for this mission."

WHITE